Page 19, line 6, delete "the last image" and insert --Fig. 3D--.

Page 21, line 4, delete "left-hand picture" and insert --Fig. 5A--;
line 5, delete "right-hand" and insert --Fig. 5A--;
line 6, delete "picture".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-11, as shown on the Corrected Sheets (copy attached), as follows:

1. (Amended) [The] **A method for making a device for echographic exploration of tissues or organs of a human or animal body, comprising:**

[use of] **providing** an ultrasound transducer having a nominal excitation frequency greater than 20 MHz[, preferably lying in the range of 50 MHz to 80 MHz, with long] **and a** focal length[,] greater than 10 mm[, preferably about 25 mm, in making a device]**, said transducer adapted** for deep penetration echographic exploration of tissues or organs of the human or animal body[, specifically of the eyeball, in particular of the posterior segment of the eyeball, more particularly of the macular region, and also of tissues situated behind the eyeball such as the oculomotor muscles, eye socket fat, and the optic nerve].

2. (Amended) [The use of] **A method for exploring tissues or organs of a human or animal body, comprising:**

exploring the tissues or organs of a human or animal body with an ultrasound transducer having a nominal excitation frequency greater than 20 MHz[, preferably lying in the range of 50 MHz to 80 MHz, with long] **and a** focal length[,] greater than 10 mm[, preferably about 25 mm, in implementing a method of] **to achieve** deep penetration echographic exploration [of tissues or organs of the human or animal body, specifically of the eyeball, in particular of the posterior segment of the eyeball, more particularly of the macular

region, and also of tissues situated behind the eyeball such as the oculomotor muscles, eye socket fat, and the optic nerve].

3. (Amended) A [use] **method** according to claim [2] **23**, [characterized in that] **further comprising the step of moving** the ultrasound transducer [is moved] over [the] **a** pars plana to avoid [the] **an** ultrasound beam being absorbed by [the] **a** lens of the eye.

4. (Amended) A [use] **method** according to claim 2 [or 3, characterized in that], **further comprising the step of covering** the ultrasound transducer [is protected by] **with** a membrane of plastics material.

A2 cont.

5. (Amended) A device for deep penetration echographic exploration of tissues or organs of the human or animal body, the device comprising:

a [high frequency] transceiver system operating in the range 20 MHz to 200 MHz [that is coupled to]; **and**

an ultrasound transducer [of long] **coupled to the transceiver system, said transducer having a** focal length[,] greater than 10 mm[, preferably about 25 mm, and

a system for amplifying and storing the radiofrequency signal as back-scattered after exploration, preferably associated with a system for recording the amplified signal and/or a system for processing the signal in the form of an image, and/or a system for processing the signal in order to perform tissue characterization].

6. (Amended) A device according to claim [4, characterized in that] **5, wherein** the ultrasound transducer [is implemented in the form of] **comprises** a probe [controlled so as], **and the device further comprises a motor** to move **the probe** in [the] **a** vicinity of [the]an anterior wall of [the]an eye.

7. (Amended) A device according to claim 6, [characterized in that] **wherein the motor displaces** the ultrasound transducer [is displaced] along two orthogonal axes.

8. (Amended) A device according to claim 6, [characterized in that] **wherein the motor moves** the transducer [is subjected to] **in an** arcuate displacement.

9. (Amended) A device according to claim 7, [characterized in that] **wherein** the ultrasound transducer is focused along a third axis orthogonal to the two orthogonal displacement axes.

A2 cont.

10. (Amended) A device according to [any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that] **claim 5, wherein the device further comprises an electronic focusing system to focus, without moving,** the ultrasound transducer [is focused without moving by using an electronic focusing system].

11. (Amended) A device according to [any one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that] **claim 5, further comprising a plastic membrane covering** the ultrasound transducer [is protected by a membrane of plastics material].

Please add the following new claims:

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the focal length of the ultrasound transducer is approximately 25 mm.

A3

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise eyeballs.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise a posterior segment of the eyeball.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise a macular region of the posterior segment of the eyeball.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise at least one of oculomotor muscles, eye socket fat, and an optic nerve.

17. A method according to claim 2, wherein the nominal excitation frequency is between 50 MHz and 80 MHz.

18. A method according to claim 2, wherein the focal length is approximately 25 mm.

19. A method according to claim 2, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise eyeballs.

A 3 cont

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise a posterior segment of the eyeball.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise a macular region of the posterior segment of the eyeball.

22. A method according to claim 2, wherein the tissues or organs explored comprise at least one of oculomotor muscles, eye socket fat, and an optic nerve.

23. A method according to claim 2, wherein the ultrasound transducer comprises a probe, and the method further comprises the step of moving the probe in a vicinity of an anterior wall of an eye.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the moving step moves the probe along two orthogonal axes.

25. A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of focusing the ultrasound transducer along a third axis orthogonal to the two orthogonal axes.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein the moving step moves the probe in an arcuate displacement.

27. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of focusing the ultrasound transducer with an electronic focusing system.

28. A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the focal length of the ultrasound transducer is approximately 25 mm.

a3 cont

29. A device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a system to amplify and store a radio frequency signal as back-scattered after exploration; and

a system to record an amplified signal.

30. A device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a system to amplify and store a radio frequency signal as back-scattered after exploration; and

a system to process an amplified signal in a form of an image.

31. A device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a system to amplify and store a radio frequency signal as back-scattered after exploration; and

a system to process an amplified signal in order to perform tissue characterization.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are currently pending. By this preliminary amendment, applicant has amended claims 1-11 and added new claims 12-31. As explained below, no new matter has been added to the application.

The specification was amended to correct minor informalities and to improve readability. The amendments made to claims 1-11 are supported at least by originally filed claims 1-11, respectively. New claims 12-16 are supported at least by originally filed claim 1. New claims 17-22 are supported at least by originally filed claim 2. New claims 23-26 are